

Status of Equal Educational Opportunity Programs

The Council on Postsecondary Education, as part of its educational access strategy, supports statewide programs that promote the recruitment, retention, and graduation of Kentucky resident African Americans. Institutions are encouraged to develop innovative programs to support initiatives outlined in the Kentucky Plan for Equal Opportunities and the Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. Numerous students have participated in and benefited from programs offered by Kentucky's public postsecondary institutions. A summary of the program activities follows.

The Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program

The Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program (GMS CPP) was created in 1988 as a mentoring and academic enrichment program to increase the number of prepared minority students who enroll in Kentucky postsecondary institutions. Each institution is required to assess and report annually to the council the overall success of its programs, the impact the program has on underrepresented minority students, and how the program addresses statewide goals and objectives.

Evaluations were received from all but one of the participating institutions. The KCTCS system report did not include an evaluation from Northern Kentucky Technical College but indicated that the report would be submitted by the KCTCS under separate cover at a later date.

As part of the memorandum of agreement between the council and the institutions, the council does not release funds for the new program year until institutional reports are received. Reports are evaluated on how well the institutions address statewide goals and objectives.

The evaluations reveal that nearly 1,000 students participated in the programs in FY 2001-02. The programs offered comparable academic enrichment activities, including computer technology, math, science, reading, research, skills, African American history and culture, leadership skills, and an introduction to the collegiate experience. Several programs offered participants a one-week residential experience. Each program also included a parent/guardian workshop to increase parental involvement in the preparation of students for postsecondary education.

Five institutions indicated that collaborative activities and programs are in place with program participants from other institutions. Six institutions noted that collaboration has occurred with primary and secondary school teachers and administrators, community organizations, GEAR UP, TRIO, and Upward Bound programs. One institution indicated that collaboration with other institutions will not be beneficial. Several institutions indicated that the lack of financial

resources limits their ability to travel to areas outside of their respective counties. Alternative approaches were not identified or discussed by those institutions. Two universities, Northern Kentucky University and the University of Louisville, shared travel expenses to the 2002 GMSCPP statewide conference. Copies of the institutional reports are available in the CPE offices.

Nine programs received recurring grants. Three programs which were added in 2000 -- EKU, NKU, and the KCTCS -- receive non-recurring funds. A request for recurring funds to support the new programs was included in the council's 2002-04 recommendation. Funding is included in the Governor's Executive Spending Plan for FY 03. However, institutions were advised that adjustments may be necessary if the 2002-03 revenue projections do not materialize.

The Louisville Defender Minority Expo

The 65th Minority Consumer Expo will be held November 22-24, 2002, at the Kentucky International Convention Center in downtown Louisville. This year's theme is: "Opportunities + Resources = Success." State government and the Louisville Defender sponsor the annual event. The expo allows institutions to showcase their "best practices" and to answer questions from prospective students and parents. College and university participation is coordinated through the council. At this time, all public institutions are expected to participate.

The Governor's Diversity Day

The Governor's Diversity Day will be held November 6, 2002, at the Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center in downtown Frankfort. The conference promotes diversity and multiculturalism in health, education, and industry. The state's Personnel Cabinet coordinates the conference. Institutions have been asked to participate.

Statewide Gear Up Grant

GEAR UP Kentucky (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) will host expos November 4, 2002, at the University of Louisville, and November 14, 2002, at the University of Kentucky. Expos are planned for spring 2003 at Western Kentucky University and Eastern Kentucky University. Seventh graders from across the Commonwealth are expected to participate. In 2001, more than 4,000 students participated in a statewide expo.

GEAR UP also will hold poster and essay contests and award ceremonies will be held at each expo. The expos are designed to send the message that college is fun, hard work, and an essential step to a better job and a better life. For more information contact Yvonne Lovell at yvonne.lovell@mail.state.ky.us or (502) 573-1555.

Student Website

The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority and the council are developing a website to promote postsecondary education in the Commonwealth and to assist individuals with preparing for postsecondary education. The target audience is middle and high school students,

counselors, parents, and adults who are potential postsecondary education students, and workforce development with human resource access for workers' skill upgrades and educational opportunities for displaced workers. This website will enable prospective students to retrieve information on financial aid, introduce the process for enrolling in colleges and universities, and provide contact information of administrators at Kentucky's public postsecondary institutions. The site will include everything a prospective student needs to plan for, apply to, and pay for college. The website is expected to be operational in early 2003.

Kentucky Association of Blacks in Higher Education

The northwest region of the Kentucky Association of Blacks in Higher Education will host the association's 19th annual conference, April 16-18, 2003, in Louisville. The goals and objectives of the association are to provide professional development for members; to address important issues that affect African American faculty, staff, and students at Kentucky's postsecondary institutions; to promote opportunities for networking; and to inform members of employment opportunities.

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